

1 comments, if you could come forward and we will get as many of
2 you in before Commissioner Copps has to leave.

3 I'm asking each of the people who are participating in the
4 public comments to -- to keep their comments to just two or
5 three minutes. And I will cut you off. And identify
6 yourselves very briefly by name and affiliation. Thank you.
7 That one? Okay.

8 **MS. PRUITT:** I'm Jean Pruitt, and I'm president of the
9 American Film Marketing Association, which represents 150
10 independent production and distribution companies. I have two
11 points. One of which is that, notwithstanding some of the
12 commentary in the first panel, it is not hard to define an
13 independent. In this industry or in any other, an independent
14 from our perspective are -- is a company whose productions are
15 funded outside the major studio system. It is not a production
16 done by the studio down the street. And it is not necessarily
17 or exclusively something edgy, done by a student with a video
18 cam off to the side.

19 It is, in fact, quite frequently a 65 to 200 million
20 dollar picture who -- which was financed independently, usually
21 by reference to going to a whole series of people and
22 distributors to try to get the money.

23 I think that as you look at what has taken place in the
24 United States since the Seventh Circuit set aside FINSYN, you
25 could conclude that we have already run the test lab on what

1 will happen if we go to total deregulation.

2 The independent industry today, by and large, cannot
3 distribute a film to a theater without a studio deal. You
4 cannot get your picture on video in Blockbuster or
5 Blockbuster's competitor without a studio deal. The
6 independents do not, by and large, produce network TV series
7 because there is no place for them. And today, there is
8 virtually no significant cable network that is acquiring
9 product from outside its own internal workings or the
10 "re-purposing from networks."

11 Why should the FCC care about that? I think they should
12 care about it for a lot of the reasons that have already been
13 stated. One of which is simply there are a lot of other
14 stories out there that will not get told if we limit the
15 production process to a few studios. But the larger reason
16 relates to two things. One of which is that the independents
17 are in fact the test lab themselves for the entire industry.

18 This is the way new voices come up the process. This is
19 the way new actors, new directors and new stories come forward.
20 Some of them are fabulous, some of them are not, but without
21 that process you limit the industry to a very narrow spectrum.
22 And that would damage the American public.

23 I think the other thing that we are seeing increasingly,
24 and it has economic and employment consequences as well as
25 subject matter consequences, is that most independent film

1 production today is largely dependent on foreign co-productions
2 and subsidies. And over time that means that the stories which
3 are being told are not U.S. stories. They are increasingly
4 shifting to stories of the jurisdiction that has helped finance
5 and make those possible. And that is a complete loss to the
6 U.S. And I would suggest that no other developed country has
7 as much trouble as the U.S. does in indicating it's concern
8 about an independent film and TV production industry.

9 And I question why we've see the FCC make protective
10 provisions for independent ISPs in the Time Warner-AOL merger
11 but turn a complete blind eye to independent producers. When
12 they are the storytellers and when they create a type of value
13 that is something beyond the pure economic. Thank you.

14 **FEMALE VOICE:** (Inaudible) step up to the podium?

15 **MS. ORTIZ:** I just think it's going to take too long
16 because he literally has to leave in ten minutes.

17 **FEMALE VOICE:** Well, I don't think it takes too long to
18 step up two steps (inaudible).

19 **MS. GOLDSTONE:** My name is A.W. Goldstone. I'm an
20 attorney and a writer, and I'm also on the steering committee
21 of Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, which
22 is a progressive antiwar organization. I come here to express
23 my grave concern about the impact on our democracy of
24 concentrated ownership of news purveyors and whether monopoly
25 ownership is associated with homogenization of information

1 provided to the public and how the homogenization impacts the
2 ability of voters to meaningfully exercise their franchise.

3 In the context of recent events, I'd like to present my
4 empirical experience as a consumer of information. And my
5 experience frankly tells us that we're going absolutely in the
6 wrong direction. Because in the context of the coverage of the
7 justification and prosecution of the Iraq War, there was almost
8 complete homogenization among the six major networks in terms
9 of the information that was presented to the American people.
10 Not only that, but the point-of-view represented was almost
11 completely identified with the Executive branch and with the
12 Bush administration.

13 Throughout the buildup, the foreign press consistently
14 reported misrepresentations and fabrications by the
15 administration that were under reported or unreported by the
16 big six. Similarly, during the war, the foreign press
17 indicated that the story being told to the American people was
18 not a balanced representation of events, but a carefully
19 constructed justification for the point of view of the
20 Executive branch. As alarming as the -- thank you -- and spin
21 of the information was the administration's and majority
22 leader's characterization of nonconforming news reports as
23 treason. Treason. Looked at from the outside we would have to
24 characterize much of what was presented as news as propaganda.

25 We must ask ourselves how long this state of affairs can

1 continue before we become a democracy in name only. And
2 frankly, I think that John Taplin gave it its name, which is
3 totalitarianism.

4 I want to thank you, Commissioner Copps, for coming here
5 and for trying to publicize the urgency surrounding the
6 proposed repeal of these regulations. And, please, before you
7 leave, if you could tell us what we can do to try and prevent
8 this from happening. Thank you.

9 **MS. PRITCHARD:** I'm Rosa Pritchard, private citizen. And
10 I've got a suggestion for a way to stop this corruption. I
11 sent a long e-mail to everybody on the registration list
12 yesterday morning about important information that the national
13 media has been withholding. If you didn't receive it, please
14 pick up one of these slips with the URL link to an article I
15 wrote for Democrats.com about this before the 2002 election.
16 I'll put these slips with the URL of my piece and my e-mail
17 address on the table outside the door.

18 I contend that already the national media has gotten
19 itself into a worse cover-up trap than the Catholic church. I
20 suggested that the best way to demonstrate this is by
21 explaining the basic facts of a lawsuit against George W. Bush,
22 which have been withheld from the electorate. How many people
23 know that during the 2000 campaign, the national press kept
24 secret the fact that George W. Bush was a defendant in a
25 whistleblower lawsuit brought by the executive director of the

1 Texas Funeral Services Commission?

2 She alleged that she was fired before -- because she
3 attempted to enforce state laws allegedly violated by Service
4 Corporation International, the world's largest death care
5 corporation, a major contributor to the Bush family. She
6 alleged in her lawsuit that Governor Bush had lied under oath,
7 obstructed justice, and been guilty of influence peddling.
8 Filed in 1999, the lawsuit was at first reported in a normal
9 way by the local and national media until Bush became the GOP
10 presidential nominee, when it was disappeared. Unreported, it
11 continued to steadily advance through the discovery process,
12 including the taking of depositions that contradicted Bush's
13 sworn affidavit, throughout the campaign and through the first
14 nine months of the Bush presidency.

15 In stunning contrast to the hyping of the Paula Jones
16 case, the media kept everything about the legal developments in
17 the suit against Bush secret, including its secret settlement
18 in the Fall of 2001 by the office of Bush's co-defendant, then
19 Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, just before he announced
20 his candidacy for the U.S. Senate. The story of Cornyn's
21 involvement was then disappeared throughout his Senate
22 campaign.

23 I wrote my democrats.com article to get the information on
24 the record and to speculate that the major reason the press
25 withheld a story that might have undermined Bush's promise to

1 restore honor and integrity to the White House was their
2 understanding that his FCC appointees would further deregulate
3 monopolistic media ownership. What's apparently going on here
4 is simply greed on the part of media owners and fear on the
5 part of journalists.

6 People are naturally wary of anything that smacks of a
7 conspiracy theory, but this dynamic requires no conspiracy.
8 The bottom line is simply that when media ownership is
9 concentrated in the hands of a few, virtually no journalists
10 who want lasting careers will risk reporting information that
11 might threaten the interests of owners controlling major media
12 outlets.

13 We are not powerless to stop this corruption. This room
14 has been filled today with dramatic laments about how bad
15 things already are and how they're likely to get much worse.
16 I'll wrap it up. But we can stop this if we really want to.
17 We can get the attention of the public about this danger by
18 finding a way to tell the public about the Funeralgate lawsuit
19 and other important stories already that the already too
20 concentrating media has been withholding. People would
21 understand that something has gone drastically haywire with the
22 press if they learned that in contrast to the exhaustive
23 reporting of every alleged allegation against Clinton, the
24 media withheld the news of the legal developments in a
25 whistleblower lawsuit brought against Bush by the executive

1 director of a state agency.

2 I'm an ordinary citizen and I'm not rich, but I have no
3 doubt whatsoever that the people in this room could find a way
4 to use the information in my democrats.com piece, Media
5 Cover-up is the Key to Cornyn's Senate Race in Texas, to break
6 out the news about the danger of further deregulation by the
7 FCC. Please read my piece. Think this through. Produce an
8 information -- infomercial. Buy ads, tell your friends. Do
9 something effective, fight back now.

10 **COMMISSIONER COPPS:** Sandra, can I -- can I make a couple
11 of comments? I -- I find myself as you know -- you know where
12 I find myself right now is in a very awkward position, because
13 I have got to be on an airplane in less than two hours. And
14 I'm already cutting it -- cutting it kind of close, and I have
15 some obligations in Washington tomorrow with this issue and
16 some others that I cannot ignore. So I guess I would ask first
17 of all, is this -- this is going to continue to be taped?

18 **MS. ORTIZ:** Yes.

19 **COMMISSIONER COPPS:** Okay. So let me make two
20 suggestions. I will obviously be looking at the tape and I
21 hope these comments will continue because I think this is some
22 of the most valuable input that we get in a hearing like this.
23 In addition to that if anybody wants to e-mail me directly
24 before the tape gets there, I'm at mcopps@fcc.gov.

25 Now, let me just say a number of people have asked me and

1 I've gotten some notes, you know -- what can we do? We've only
2 got 35 days left. I think the previous speaker just hit on a
3 lot of what we can do is -- and I tried to indicate this in my
4 remarks. We've got to do everything we can to try to make this
5 a grassroots effort. It involves using the Internet. Finding
6 some -- some other spokesmen to speak out who can compel
7 network attention. We have tried to talk and strategize a
8 little bit about this last night at dinner and will continue to
9 do so. But we've got to make sure that we use the momentum
10 that has been created here now to try to make a difference
11 between now and June 2nd, and hopefully we can make a
12 difference.

13 Hopefully, we can slow things down a little bit.
14 Hopefully we can get these proposals, whatever they are, that
15 are going to be introduced out in the sunshine of public
16 opinion, before we carve them into -- into stone. And then
17 going forward from that, we need to use this momentum to make
18 sure that we can really spark a grassroots dialogue on the
19 future of media in this country. And I think -- I think we've
20 started down that road.

21 We've got a long way to go, but we -- I think we've got
22 enough momentum where maybe we can compel that. But, you know,
23 take your thoughts to the talk shows, letters to the editor,
24 your neighbors, your decision makers, your elected officials,
25 wherever you can. It's a critically important four weeks that

1 we are about to embark on here. We're at perhaps the most
2 critical for our telecommunication issues in many, many years.

3 And with that I -- I really have to make sincere and
4 abject apologies, but I'm going to have to go. But I do want
5 to hear what everybody here has to say and I do want you to
6 e-mail me. I will watch the tape, and I'm happy to talk to any
7 of these folks anytime.

8 And I want to thank you again for convening what I think
9 was a very valuable session here. I've picked up new granular
10 information and detailed information, which I will try to share
11 with my colleagues. I picked up a lot of new perspectives,
12 just drinking in the wisdom of people who have been in the
13 industry for so very, very long and really have a feel for it's
14 heart and soul. And that's important to me too. So it's
15 been -- it's been very valuable and instructive for me, and I
16 hope you will continue the dialogue here when I leave. And I
17 hope you will continue the dialogue when you leave this room
18 too with everybody else.

19 So I want to thank everybody for taking the time and
20 trouble to come out.

21 **MS. SNOW:** My name is Nancy Snow. I teach in the
22 Annenberg School for Communication and also at Cal State
23 Fullerton in the College of Communications. Washington, D.C.
24 is into liberating people in other countries' business. We,
25 the people of the United States, deserve more than our fair

1 share of liberation from our media oligopolies.

2 Brian Lowery, media writer of the LA Times, stated last
3 week on a panel that the FCC new rule changes affecting
4 consolidation and ownership of media is, in his words,
5 tremulously underreported. Probably the most underreported
6 news story of our time. In fact, the consolidation story is
7 being reported, but not on the front pages of our newspapers.
8 It is in the business and finance sections of newspapers.
9 Broadcast industry publications, where only those in the know,
10 in the biz, insiders follow this subject.

11 We have become Walter Lipman's bewildered herd. The
12 public functions like the angry mob at the gates or the
13 proverbial peanut gallery. Occasionally whining that nothing
14 is on to watch, but we know not where to turn for help. So we
15 just keep watching. In fact, I don't believe anyone here has
16 addressed the addictive qualities of watching television, which
17 were pointed out over 20 years ago by Jerry Mander in his book,
18 Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television.

19 It is truly ironic that as we sit here today discussing
20 American press ownership, the United States Government is
21 re-broadcasting Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw and Peter Jennings on
22 Iraqi TV to show the Iraqi people what a free press looks like
23 in a democracy. Before we teach others about democracy, we
24 might try practicing it here at home.

25 Media power is political power, stated in Ben Bagdikian's

1 book, The Media Monopoly. No wonder the public is largely left
2 out of this major decision that affects all our lives. We've
3 been asked to sit on the sidelines, to keep shopping, or follow
4 the N-B -- NBA playoffs, while the corporate mega-media and
5 their appointed friends in government cozy up and bring us
6 anything but a democrat --

7 (End of Side B of Tape 3. Beginning of Side A, Tape 4.)

8 **MS. SNOW:** -- applies to official Washington and other
9 corporate sources of news. One 24-hour news cycle requires
10 constant feeding. Which advertising and publicity pre-packaged
11 sources of news are only happy to nourish. In the Federal
12 Government, the largest public relations division is inside the
13 Pentagon, where government public relations specialists provide
14 Monday through Friday feeds to the national media. Embedded
15 reporters didn't just accompany the middle -- the military to
16 the Middle East, but they also sit for pre-arranged briefings
17 from Rumsfeld, Tori Clark and Ari Fleischer.

18 In the corporate media environment today, the best
19 journalist is increasingly the dutiful journalist. Who
20 understands his or her symbiotic relationship between official
21 channels of information sources and the news story product.
22 Helen Thomas, are you listening?

23 Long gone are the days of independent journalists like
24 George Seldis, who would have gladly been kicked out of his
25 first Washington press briefing in exchange for the

1 neighborhood goings on back home.

2 Just last week, a little truth emerged from the fog of
3 war. MSNBC journalist Ashleigh Banfield told a gathering of
4 students at Kansas State University, which is usually where the
5 peanut gallery gathers, that the American people didn't see
6 what happened after mortars landed in Iraq -- only the puffs of
7 smoke. There were horrors completely left out of the war
8 coverage in the United States.

9 On the other hand, what we did see was advertising,
10 converging media and official sources of news. Generals
11 basically around the clock, who gave us a nonstop flow of
12 images by cable news operators who wrap themselves in the
13 American flag and go after a certain target demographic. It
14 was, she said, "a grand and glorious picture that had a lot of
15 people watching and a lot of advertisers excited about cable TV
16 news." But it wasn't journalism.

17 I am here as a journalism professor, and I can tell you
18 whether it's in the College of Communications at Cal State
19 Fullerton or here in the Annenberg School, journalism
20 concentrations, at least in our college back at Cal State
21 Fullerton, are all but dead. While advertising and public
22 relations concentrations are thriving. Why? Because students
23 are wise to the fact that the news media business is where the
24 jobs are. Business. Not creating the next Murrow or Cronkite.

25 They know that broadcasting used to have a clear mandate

1 for public service that's been lost in the fog of
2 consolidation. Try telling someone that the American people
3 are the real landlords of the broadcast airwaves and that
4 broadcasters are enjoying rent control perks and see what kind
5 of looks you'll get. We all know the truth of what's really
6 going on here. When President Bush assured the Iraqi people
7 that Iraq's oilfields were properly owned by the Iraqi people,
8 I couldn't help but think about that other rhetoric we hear so
9 often that the American public owns the airwaves. We're
10 frankly sick of empty promises.

11 Everyone in this room needs to carry around the following
12 statement as our organizing principle. The airwaves do not
13 belong to the broadcasters. They do not belong to the
14 advertisers. The owners, by law, are the people of the United
15 States. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
16 committed citizens can change this dynamic. We will. The
17 public airwaves are an entitlement not a privilege. An
18 inalienable mandate in a free and open society, not something
19 to wax philosophical over or read about in our history books.

20 If we truly want a free media, and if we truly want the
21 best advertisement of what America's story is to the world,
22 whether it's in Iraq, Afghanistan or anywhere else, then we
23 need to keep this mandate by our sides and show the world what
24 a truly free and liberated people's media looks like. Thank
25 you.

1 **MR. STARR:** Hi, my name is Steven Starr. I'm one of the
2 founders of the Los Angeles Independent Media Center. And I
3 recently had the privilege of managing KPFK, the Pacifica
4 station locally. The decisions the commissioners are studying
5 today -- we discussed today -- they'll have a profound affect,
6 as the woman said before me on the way America sees us.

7 We speak with fervor these days about freedoms -- freedom
8 of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of expression. But
9 every time Commissioner Powell declares the market as his
10 religion, which he's done frequently, one wonders if he
11 recognizes what the rest of the world thinks about his respect
12 for any of the other freedoms we speak off.

13 When former FCC Chairman Mark Fowler declared that "the
14 perception of broadcasters as community trustees should be
15 replaced by a view of broadcasting as marketplace
16 participants," the FCC apparently decided that the economics of
17 scale trumped democracy, and the efficiencies of capital
18 trumped freedom of speech.

19 Our First Amendment demands journalists serve the public
20 interest, not the political or the business interests of media
21 owners. The FCC has failed to tell us how relaxing these laws
22 will allow mainstream journalists more freedom to serve the
23 public directly. And one wonders how many television
24 journalists are sleeping well these days. A few, I think, the
25 good ones I know are deeply troubled by the parameters of the

1 journalism they are permitted to practice.

2 Case in point: The looting of Iraqi museums struck many
3 as the greatest cultural disaster in modern history, but we
4 can't find the story on television, except to see our Secretary
5 of Defense shrug and say, "Stuff happens." Five thousand years
6 of our cultural history dismissed with a shrug. One wonders
7 what seeds are planted when that's the entire conversation we
8 offer to those watching satellite-casts, all over the world.

9 I remember a time when a man we all admire said we should
10 all be judged by the content of our character and not the color
11 of our skin. Today we are here as citizens, as parents, as
12 members of a civil society to understand that America as a
13 nation will be judged in this age of media by the character of
14 our content.

15 You see, the character of our content as it proliferates
16 all over the world tells a story about America, a story that
17 people will either respect or reject. If that story isn't told
18 with diversity, if that story isn't told from a sense of place,
19 a place that allows for a broad spectrum of thought, that
20 enables ideas to be argued with passion and mutual respect,
21 then our American story isn't worth telling to the rest of the
22 world.

23 Again, it is up to this commission to understand that the
24 character of our content will be defined entirely by the
25 liberties implicit in our ideas. That our children's future

1 will be insured by the protections under which those ideas are
2 expressed. And that our security in the eyes of the world will
3 only be guaranteed by a global perception that we are here to
4 advance the prospect for democracy before capital, for human
5 diversity before market controls, and for freedom of expression
6 before shareholder demands.

7 I urge you to consider this carefully. Thank you.

8 **MR. THOMAS:** I'm Michael Turner Thomas. I'm a micro-power
9 broadcaster, unlicensed. And I can say openly that the
10 corporate media in this country has been outright hostile to
11 Africans in America. I experience it every day. I walk down
12 the street, people will approach me on a sidewalk, and they
13 will walk out into the street to avoid getting close to me.
14 Because, according to the corporate media, I am a criminal
15 because I'm of obvious African ancestry and I have a penis.

16 Well, I am none of that, other than being of obvious
17 African ancestry and having a penis.

18 I am not judged by my intellect, my intelligence, nor the
19 goodness in my heart. I'm making a point of this in particular
20 because of the limited way to combat the image of distortion
21 that is being projected by the lying, corporate media.

22 One particular case in point is the funeral of Huey
23 Newton. Channel 2, up in Oakland, broadcast something critical
24 of Huey Newton just before his funeral. And representatives of
25 that particular station showed up at his funeral, much to the

1 dismay of a lot of people to whom Huey Newton is a hero. And I
2 happen to be one of them. The people reacted by beating up the
3 members of the corporate media for that image of distortion.
4 The very next day, that very same television station that
5 presented that twisted view turned around and modified their
6 views on Huey Newton and projected a more positive image of
7 him. And, indeed, the man did well to try to promote the cause
8 for Africans in America.

9 Now, to say to engage in combat in something like this, it
10 is terrible. It shouldn't have to come that way, but looking
11 at the coup de tat -- I mean the election campaign of 2000, the
12 Philadelphia police beat up protesters for nothing. The Los
13 Angeles Police beat up protesters in this town for nothing at
14 both of the conventions for the major political parties. And,
15 of course, the media said that the police did such a great job
16 in the handling of this. They did neither. And I think that
17 we should have some recourse greater than actual combat to
18 bring some honesty and integrity to the lying, corporate media.
19 Thank you.

20 **MS. GRUMAY:** My name is Michelle Grumay and I'm a member
21 of the Screen Actors Guild. But I'm here as an individual.

22 And I wanted to address the -- Commissioner Copps about
23 this issue. I would venture to say that most Americans are not
24 aware that the airwaves even belong to the public or them. And
25 I would like to ask the commission, if the public interests

1 standard is being served, then why is the public unaware that
2 they have a right to look at their local station's license
3 renewal applications? Their TV and radio stations.

4 I just want to just say very briefly that I happened to
5 look at several stations' files recently. During the last --
6 the end of the last license renewal period. Before it was --
7 their license -- licenses were going to be renewed. And I was
8 shocked at the way I was treated.

9 At one station, I was treated like an intruder. I was
10 interrogated, I was asked who I was. Who did I represent? I
11 couldn't just be an individual. I had to represent some
12 organization. At another, they sent in the security guard when
13 I started looking -- after I first ask the person who was in
14 charge in the general manager's office could I look at the
15 file. And he said I was not allowed to look at the file.

16 Now, this is in deep contrast to the way I was treated
17 many years ago when there was a Fairness Doctrine. When we had
18 more rights. And I just like to say that this is something
19 that's really important. These -- these are public documents.
20 The stations do not go out of their way to let people know that
21 they have a right to do a license challenge. That they can
22 challenge the license renewal of their local stations. They
23 can talk about the discrimination. They can look at the files
24 and see and -- and see where -- their irregularities.

25 But if the public doesn't even know they have a right to

1 do this, if they don't even announce it anymore on public
2 service ads that say you have a right to come to your --
3 these -- our station and look at our license renewal file, I
4 think this a very important right and I think it's being
5 misused.

6 **MS. KENNEDY:** My name is Mimi Kennedy and I'm an actress.
7 I was on a show called Dharma and Greg. And I really came here
8 as a citizen, but I realized when I showed up, people might
9 have thought I came to bite the hand the feeds me. I really am
10 here not for any organization. KPFK, which is listener
11 sponsored radio, the only radio that I listen to along with
12 some of the NPR stations, alerted me to the fact that this was
13 going and I didn't write down where. So then I had to do half
14 an hour searching on the Internet to ask the right question to
15 find out where this actually was. It wasn't on the USC website
16 and it certainly wasn't on the FCC website.

17 So this brings to fore the -- whoever controls the facts
18 controls the narrative. And the problem with consolidation is
19 the facts are in fewer hands. We'd like to trust that, but we
20 simply can't. The Founding Fathers didn't, and we need
21 democracy, a multiplicity of voices, a multiplicity of people
22 collecting and interpreting facts.

23 I remember -- I'm conditioned by the Cold War and how we
24 used to laugh at the idea there were elections in the Soviet
25 Union or that they had news and it was Pravda. And we were

1 very merry about the fact that you couldn't trust it for real
2 news. I would hate to see America devolve into this, but I
3 never watch television news because a certain part of me feels
4 as if I'm watching some Pravda-like cheerleading and I won't
5 necessarily be getting the facts that I do on listener
6 sponsored radio, which I'm lucky enough to have in Los Angeles.

7 I really wanted to come here and have the FCC hear how
8 upset I am as a citizen about hate radio. I've just listened
9 to it to educate myself, and I am shocked that the devolution
10 of the airwaves that most Americans listen to has sunk to this.
11 And now I see why our democracy is becoming more difficult
12 because people feel this discourse of ridicule and threat and
13 demonization is proper patriotic discourse.

14 The FCC should certainly be ashamed of itself that it has
15 let things get so far on AM radio. I don't think further
16 consolidation will solve this problem. Therefore, I would like
17 to support the people who said here, as Marty Kaplan with his
18 Pew research study, we certainly need to not vote on anything
19 June 2nd.

20 The public isn't here because the public didn't know.
21 This isn't a public town hall. God bless us, we're providers.
22 I realize I'm here as a professional actress. Unwittingly,
23 more appropriately here as that certainly than any member of
24 the public. There is only one other person that I met here who
25 came -- I'm sure there are more of you, but in my speaking --

1 as a member of the public. So, please, FCC -- who is ever
2 watching this -- do not think this was a public town hall. The
3 public doesn't know. The public is not here and that goes back
4 to whoever controls the facts controls the narrative. The
5 facts are not out there that this is happening. The public
6 control of the airwaves is an illusion. I don't want our
7 democracy to become an illusion.

8 So absolutely hold off this vote and look at what you do
9 before you make our democracy an illusion by having fewer
10 people control the facts. And they don't have a good record
11 with this so far. Thank you.

12 **MR. FRIED:** Well, they say don't follow children and
13 animals. Let's add actresses to that. I wish I had gone
14 earlier. Thanks, first of all, for everybody who is still
15 here. I was hoping to speak to a few more people, including an
16 FCC commissioner. But I guess we have to settle for the tape.

17 My name is Alan Fried of Minneapolis and Santa Monica. I
18 split my time. I worked in the radio industry between 1977 and
19 2000, both commercial and non-commercial radio. And I have
20 worked in the Internet business related to Internet radio since
21 2000.

22 While I'm not involved with radio broadcasting currently,
23 I continue to believe in its fundamental value as a
24 communication service, for information and entertainment, and
25 its unique qualities of immediacy, portability, relatively low